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# THE MOTORIST

WEST JERSEY MOTOR CLUB



May/June 1980



# WHEN SCHOOL'S OUT!

## WATCH OUT!

Summer vacation for children is a time when the driver of a motor vehicle must be extra-alert for young, boisterous pedestrians.

You should be increasingly on the lookout for children on bikes who can do the unexpected at any moment. Another problem for which the driver must be on guard is children on skateboards whizzing out of driveways or performing their devil-may-care stunts in the streets.

Also the old rule of "a bouncing ball is followed by a child into the street," is still a good warning to remember.

So, when school's out — watch out! Be alert as you drive! Their lives may depend on you.



## Electronic "Wizardry" Signals car of the 80s

In the quest for fuel efficient vehicles, the Eighties will become the decade of the greatest growth in electronic development.

And the Motor Vehicle Manufacturers Association, trade association for U.S. car, truck and bus makers, reports that the 1980 car represents just a sample of what's to come.

Here are some examples of the available under-the-hood wizardry on this year's new products:

A system that automatically senses exhaust gas to adjust ignition timing, exhaust gas and air/fuel ratio to assure emissions control, maximum fuel economy and top performance.

Diagnostic devices for the service people that provide precise data on a mechanical or electrical malfunction.

A computer that can recall a problem that seems to disappear "temporarily" when you bring your car in for service.

Another system that protects against spark knock caused by changing your speed or load on the vehicle. The system automatically retards spark timing to reduce knock. When the knock ceases, the timing electronically returns to its original rate.

The owner who has never lifted the hood will be able to keep tab on what's going on inside the power plant because the message comes across clear — sometimes loud and clear — on an electronic instrument panel.

One type of electronic panel monitors 11 vehicle functions at three priority levels — critical, secondary and auxiliary. Critical areas include brakes, alternator, oil pressure and engine temperature. When a malfunction occurs, a visible alert appears every four seconds accompanied by a one-second audible. Secondary warnings apply to fuel supply, doors or trunk lid not tightly latched and also carry visible as well as sound warnings. The auxiliary list covers lamps and washer fluid. You can also run a check-out sequence.

A computer on a luxury car relays average mileage per gallon the instant you ask for it.

Interior temperatures can be controlled within a degree of accuracy by a digital instrument panel display.

Another convenience allows you to set the temperature by touch control — no buttons to push or switches to move for heating or cooling.

Trip computers are a couple of years old but still new enough to delight the owner with data on fuel supply and how long it will last based on current average speed. They will also estimate time of arrival, barring any long stops.

And a keyless entry system involves a row of five buttons on the driver's door. Press them in proper sequence (pre-determined by the factory) and the door will open. Or an owner can set his own door and trunk release combination.

What's next? Probably a keyless ignition starter for one. Also, spoken messages that will tell drivers information about the operation of their cars.

There's talk of a vehicle suspension control because downsizing of cars creates problems in designing a desired ride for all load conditions. A push button would activate it.

The electronic age, launched in 1978 and at a temporary peak in 1980, is under way. And manufacturers say a lot more is coming.

Says one company engineer: "With electronics, the impossible dream becomes possible."

**SAFETY TIP:** To most people blue lights look closer at night than they really are. Green lights appear at their correct distance, while red lights seem to be farther away. Don't count on light cues alone when you're judging distance at night.





## WEST JERSEY MOTOR CLUB

Affiliated with the American  
Automobile Association

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The West Jersey Motor Club, organized in 1926, is a non-profit, full taxpaying, civic organization for mutual service and benefit to members, motorists and the community.

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# VIEWPOINT

## Carter's gasoline conservation fee penalizes motorists unfairly

President Carter's recently-imposed gasoline conservation fee, billed as a measure to increase gasoline conservation and reduce inflation stemming from U.S. reliance on imported oil, is in reality a tactic to generate \$11 billion in new federal revenues without the need for Congressional approval.

The fee, which will take the form of a \$4.62 tariff on every barrel of imported oil and a \$4.20 tariff on every barrel of imported gasoline will be passed through only to gasoline and will increase the price to consumers by at least 10 cents per gallon.

Apparent authority for the action is given the President through the Trade Expansion Act, which allows adjustment in levels of imports, and the Emergency Petroleum Allocation Act, which provides for presidential imposition of price and allocation controls on crude oil and refined products.

The 10-cent per gallon increase comes in the wake of an almost doubling of gasoline prices in the last year and will heap further financial strain on motorists, particularly those in lower income groups.

Specifically, AAA opposes the gasoline conservation fee for the following reasons:

The fee is, in itself, inflationary. It will, by Administration estimates, add about 1/2 percent to the Consumer Price Index. Another 1/4 to 1/2 percent rise in the Index will occur as the higher prices affect the cost of other goods and services.

It is highly questionable whether the inflation results from this action can be

justified by the relatively small return in gasoline savings. Increased gasoline prices, the Administration estimates, will yield 100,000 barrels a day of reduced consumption by the end of the first year.

Yet gasoline usage data reveal that motorists already have reduced their consumption by much more than that in 1979. Early reports indicate that 1980 consumption is down as much as 10 percent over the similar period of 1979.

These reduced consumption patterns will continue as gasoline prices rise further through the effects of domestic oil price decontrol and anticipated OPEC (Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries) action.

- To save 100,000 barrels of oil, the extra \$11 billion motorists will pay translates into cost per barrel 10 times that of today's oil prices in the world market.

- Since the conservation fee will be passed along to consumers by importers, there is no incentive to reduce imports.

- The fee does nothing to increase energy supplies. AAA supported the President's move to decontrol the price of domestic oil because it provides production incentives for stepped-up energy research and development.

- Adding an artificial price increase to gasoline, whether the product is of foreign or domestic origin, may signal foreign oil producers that there is still slack to be taken up in the U.S. economy, a factor likely to be considered at the next round of OPEC price talks.

(Continued on page 14)

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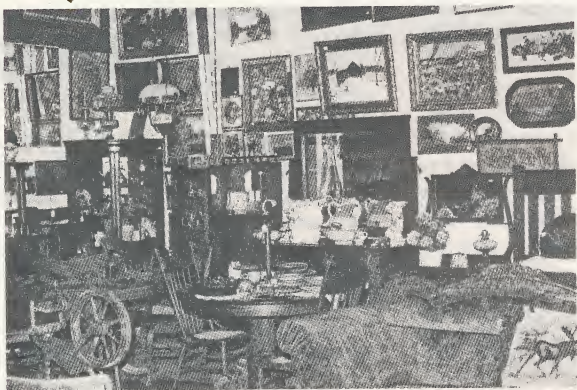
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**COVER:** In the early days of this century people began taking their cameras along when they went for a drive. Now, both cars and cameras have ceased to be expensive playthings for the few and have become a way of life for many. What the future holds for cars and cameras can only be guessed.



# Let's visit...

**SOUTH DAKOTA:** Visitors will find South Dakota's antique shops brimming with oak — pedestal tables, bedroom suites, china cabinets, rocking chairs, and picture frames. Oak is relatively inexpensive. Homesteaders considered it 'poor man's furniture.' Pioneer furniture, direct from the homestead to the shop, draws serious buyers from coast to coast. Turn-of-the century spongeware, crockery, kitchen gadgets, Depression glass, granite-ware and farm tools crowd many intimate shops — where owners will share a bit of local history and a cup of coffee. Their antiques reveal the spirit of the land and make ideal remembrances of a South Dakota vacation. (*SD Div. of Tourism photo*)



**TENNESSEE:** This is Tennessee's badlands — Copper Basin. The desert-like terrain was man made, not nature. In 1843, a disappointed gold prospector discovered rich-looking ore along the banks of Potato Creek. The prospector moved on, but copper mining operations sprang up around Ducktown in southeastern Tennessee. Timber-cutting practices stripped the hills, erosion ate away the top soil, and sulphur dioxide released by open-air copper roasters choked the plant life. Today, a stark landscape glows bright red to pastel pink, changing color with the seasons and time of day in this 56 sq. mile area desolated by mining practices of a century ago. (*Tenn. Dept. of Development photo*)



**INDIANA:** North of Chesterton, the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore and the Indiana Dunes State Park offer hiking, picnicking, camping, swimming and boating. Miles of sandy beaches frame 3-1/2 sq. miles of traveling and fixed sand dunes along the southern tip of Lake Michigan. Vegetation covers the 'dead' or fixed dunes, but the 'live' or moving dunes are barren. High winds and swirling sands that cut away the sparse vegetation often form a bowl-like excavation called a 'blow-out.' Behind the dunes lie forests and marshes — a haven for migrating land and shore birds and abundant plant life ranging from wild orchids to flowering cacti. (*Ind. Dept. of Commerce photo*)



**FLORIDA:** The world's longest bayfront boulevard, hand-rolled cigars, banana boats from South and Central America unloading along the waterfront, wild animals roaming through the Dark Continent of Africa at Busch Gardens — Tampa doubles as a picturesque vacationland and a bustling industrial center. Tampa's charm lures vacationers aboard the "Free Bee," a cable car system offering free transportation around the downtown shops and offices. The Free Bee treats riders to live musical entertainment. For a special Cuban flavor, there's Ybor City, a city-within-a-city. Ybor Square, a former cigar factory, now houses specialty shops and restaurants. (*Fla. Div. of Tourism photo*)

